



**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

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## **State Commission Accredits Oakland Partnership to Prepare Special Education Teachers**

SACRAMENTO –An innovative partnership between Oakland Unified School District, The New Teacher Project, and Alliant International University is poised to prepare much-needed special education teachers. The *Oakland Practitioner Teacher Program*, accredited on January 31, 2008 by the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing and its Committee on Accreditation, is a practice-based district intern program geared toward tackling the shortage of special education teachers of students with mild and moderate disabilities.

The national shortage of special education teachers is even more acute in urban school districts such as Oakland Unified. After learning about successful teacher training programs in Louisiana, Maryland and Texas that were aided by The New Teacher Project, Oakland Unified took action to form a partnership with the national non-profit organization. At the same time, the district approached Alliant International University to offer the “clear” or Level II credential program focusing on advanced learning and classroom application. With Oakland Unified and The New Teacher Project offering early preparation and Alliant International University offering advanced training, the partnership promises to provide a cadre of excellent new teachers for students with special needs. The new teachers will be prepared and supported to deliver high-quality, high impact, standards-based instruction.

**The New Teacher Project (TNTP)** is a national non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the number of outstanding individuals who become public school teachers and to creating environments for all educators that maximize their impact on student achievement. Since 1997, TNTP has partnered with school districts, state education agencies, colleges and universities, and other educational entities to accomplish these goals. To date, they have recruited, prepared or certified approximately 28,000 high-quality teachers, worked with more than 200 school districts and established more than 55 programs or initiatives in 26 states.

**Alliant International University**, with campuses located throughout California including the Bay Area, is committed to making an impact on society and to preparing graduates that make a difference in the lives of students, families and in the schools. Its Graduate School of Education infuses its curricula with multicultural content and emphasizes student achievement, instructional technology, assessment, neuropsychology, mentoring of diverse populations, and comprehensive community service.

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